

How to Use the ELMO in My Classroom

<http://www.gckschools.com/techinservices/resources.htm>

In the center column about halfway down the page is a link to “Ideas for Using the ELMO” All the resources we use in class as well as some others are located there.

1. How to setup the ELMO in your classroom.
 - a. Connecting all the cables
 - b. Finding the ELMO Software – Image Mate
 - c. Switching between the ELMO and the Computer
2. Ideas for using the ELMO in my Classroom
 - a. 101 Ways to Use the ELMO
 - b. Show Me Some Great Lessons!

December 12, 2008

THE PROPER SET UP OF THE TT-02s IN YOUR CLASSROOM

The most important question that any teacher has once they open up the ELMO TT-02s is “How do I set it up”. This paper will discuss the proper way to hook the ELMO TT-02s up to both a Laptop and a projector.

First, the number one question that we get at ELMO is do I need a projector or monitor to view the information that will come from your document camera. The answer is YES! This product is much more than a overhead camera. The TT-02s is a digital piece of equipment that has no built in projector.

There are two ways to hook the ELMO TT-02s to a projector. The following directions will let you use ALL the features this very special classroom product.

Unpacking the TT-02s

There are several rules when opening up your new Elmo TT-02s.

- Unpack everything before hooking anything up
- Take the TT-02s out of the box and place it on a table
- IMPORTANT! Move the camera arm parallel to the table and ROTATE the camera 180 degrees so that the camera is now in the proper operating position. (Image #1)
- Read through the manual.
- Read the software manual. Note that MAC software can be found on our web site www.elmoussa.com. (Image #2)
- Save the shipping box. The box is built to house the TT-02s should you need to send it back for service
- Save everything that came in the box!

SETTING UP THE TT-02s

We see teachers setting up the TT-02s in many different ways. We want you to set it up as follows:

PROJECTOR ONLY

- If you are only hooking the TT-02s up to a projector use the 15 pin RGB cable directly from the RGB out on the TT-02s to the RGB in on the projector. You can use the RGB cable that came with the projector.
- Plug in the Power supply for the TT-02s.
- Turn the TT-02s and the Projector on.
- After the projector warns up you will see an image on the wall or screen.
- If you do not see any image make sure that the Projector is set to show the RGB video (Computer/ XGA etc) that you are hooked through. You can press the set up button on the Projector until you see an image.
- You are ready to GO!

LAPTOP COMPUTER, DOCUMENT CAMERA, PROJECTOR

Here is where the fun begins. The following setup will let you use all the features of the ELMO TT-02s.

- Think of the ELMO TT-02s as the centerpiece of this set up. Put the laptop on one side of the ELMO and put the projector on the other side of the ELMO.
- Hook up the ELMO TT-02s to the projector as we have just done in the above setup.
- Use the RGB cable that came with the document camera and hook that cable to your extra monitor port on the back of the Laptop and attach it to the RGB **IN** on the back of the ELMO TT-02s.
- Attach the USB cable (provided) from the ELMO TT-02s back to the Laptop. **NOTE** ... you should add the ELMO Imagemate software to your computer before attaching the USB cable from the TT-02s.

What you have done with this setup is used the TT-02s as the “Switcher”. Everything now goes through the ELMO TT-02s. You will see the buttons on the TT-02s. **(Figure # 3)** You can view either the computer or the document camera through the Projector with a push of a button.

You can view your computer in this setup even when the ELMO TT-02s is turned off. One feature of the TT-02s is that it offers an active pass through. When the ELMO TT-02s is off the computer image will automatically pass through to the projector.

Please make sure to view the other Training sessions that I have placed in the HELPFUL HINTS section of the ELMO web site. **(Figure #4)** If you have any questions with this session please email me directly at agraziano@elmousa.com.

Figure #1

Once the camera has been turned 180 degrees, Image #1 shows the proper setup of the TT-02s. Note that all the cable hook-ups are in the back of the unit.



Figure # 2

First, click on Digital Visual Presenters on the first page of the Web site (www.elmoussa.com)

Go to the TT-02s section Click on the MAC software download (arrow)

Exciting Visual Technology for the Classroom!

TT-02s Digital Visual Presenter

- ▶ Simple control panel for easy, intuitive operation
- ▶ Capture vivid, live images with smooth 20 fps frame rate
- ▶ 41.6x zoom with Auto-Focus (5.2x Optical, 8.0x Digital)
- ▶ Built in SD Card Slot
- ▶ LED lighting source
- ▶ 180 Degree rotating arm
- ▶ 'Stroke of the pen' easy annotation on removable stage
- ▶ Versatile input/output connections to PC, video monitor, or projector for large screen presentation
- ▶ Camera auto-adjusts to changing levels of room brightness, ensuring easy to view, clear presentations
- ▶ Microscope slides are easily displayed in microscope viewing mode
- ▶ [Click here to view Lesson Samples](#)

[View A Demo](#)

Now with Movie Creation Software! (Windows Only)

MANUAL SPECS ACCESSORIES SOFTWARE SOFTWARE HELPFUL HINTS

Figure #3

You can switch between the PC and the Document camera with the two Red highlighted buttons. The menu button will also let you use the many features that came with the TT-02s such as the Microscope feature. (See helpful Hints)

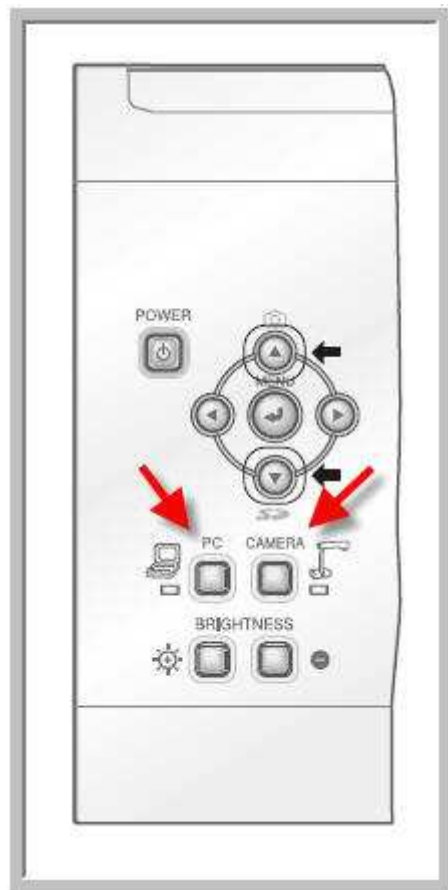


Figure #4

Clicking on the Helpful Hints button will take you to all my Training Sessions for the TT-02s. Make sure that you check this section monthly as we are always adding Helpful Hints.

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MANUAL SPECS ACCESSORIES SOFTWARE SOFTWARE HELPFUL HINTS

The image shows a product page for the TT-02s Digital Visual Presenter. It features a list of product features, a 'View A Demo' link, and a 'Now with Movie Creation Software! (Windows Only)' announcement with a red arrow pointing to the 'SOFTWARE' button in the navigation bar. The navigation bar includes buttons for MANUAL, SPECS, ACCESSORIES, SOFTWARE, and HELPFUL HINTS, each with a small icon.



TT-02s and SMART

Instructions for using the ELMO TT-02s with SMART Interactive White Boards

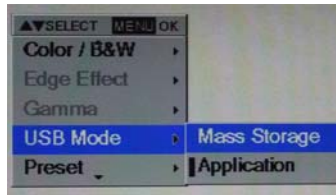
- The first step in the process is to connect your ELMO TT-02s to your LCD projector using the RGB out from the ELMO TT-02s to the RGB in on your LCD projector.

Connect the analog RGB cable to the [RGB OUT] terminal and connect the DC plug of AC adapter to [DC IN 12V] terminal.

P.20

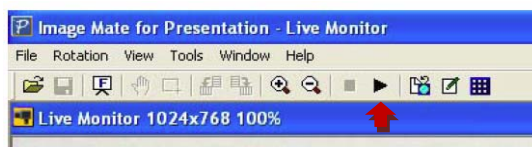


- The next step is to turn on the projector and the ELMO TT-02s, then select the menu on the ELMO TT-02s. Scroll down to **USB Mode** by using the up and down arrows. Then click the right arrow to display **Mass Storage/Application**, now use the down arrow to highlight **Application**. Select **Application** mode by pressing the menu button, then press menu once more to clear it from the screen.



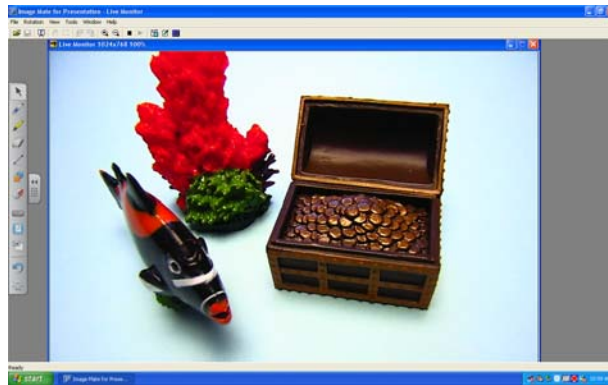
- After you have the TT-02s in Application Mode you need to install the Image Mate software that came with your ELMO TT-02s. Once the software is installed, connect the ELMO TT-02s to your PC with the provided USB cable. Your PC should now bring up the new hardware wizard and will install all the drivers for the ELMO TT-02s. Your ELMO TT-02s is now ready to work with your PC and interactive whiteboard.

- Launch the software and press the play button on the tool bar.



(Image Mate for Presentation tool bar)

- After pressing the play button you will see a live image from the camera (shown below).



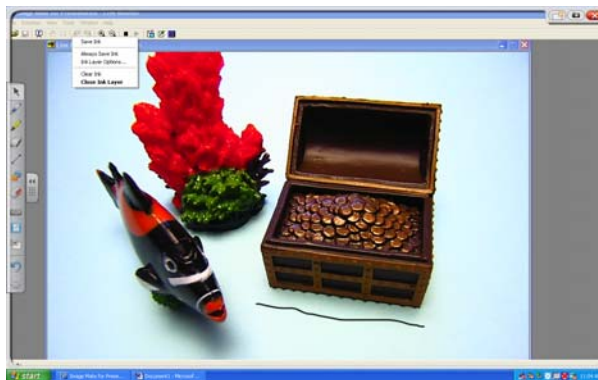
(Image Mate for Presentation in full screen mode)

- When you pick up a pen from the SMART Board interactive whiteboard pen tray the image becomes an ink layer and you can now draw on it.



(Image Mate for Presentation in an ink layer)

- When you return the pen to the tray and you touch the board it will give you the option to save the image with the ink layer.



(Smart ink layer)

- After you save the ink layer it will be in the Notebook 10 software in a new page.
- To access your TT-02s from within the Smart Notebook software, open Smart Notebook software and from the toolbar, select insert image from scanner. When the dialog box appears, select the ELMO TWAIN DS (VHO) driver from the drop down menu. A preview window will now open – click on the “Play” button and the live image from the TT-02s will show in the live preview window.



FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

www.elmousa.com

100 Ideas for Data Projector and Document Camera

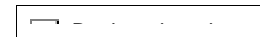
Ideas for the classroom from Umatilla-Morrow teachers

1. Demonstrate math manipulatives
2. Show visuals for science experiments
3. Modeling of the physical process of writing - hand movements
4. Art - Modeling
5. Audio visual resources from internet
6. Whole class participate in practice state test
7. Isolate new vocabulary
8. Show and Tell
9. Book Reports
10. Highlighted good vs bad grammar in writing
11. Showing selected DVDs or Videos
12. Going over tests
13. Glyphs
14. Graphing, charts, tables
15. Showing science experiment results
16. Creative writing - add a line
17. Use Visor to go over practice tests/problems highlighting one item at a time
18. End-of-Year video showing progress of work
19. As an overhead projector
20. Step-by-step math problem solving
21. Displaying student work
22. Comparison activities using split-screen
23. Slide show presentations
24. Class Web-Quests
25. Vocabulary & Decoding/Comprehension with box feature
26. Storyboarding
27. Displaying class agenda/schedule
28. Read-aloud
29. Modeling note-taking

30. Mapping and group editing
31. Teaching before computer lab visit
32. Fluencing
33. Battle of the Books to show questions
34. Live web-cams
35. Coins and manipulatives
36. Reflections and tessellations
37. Art - show steps (teacher can work on next step while students work)
38. Demonstration of AR
39. Magnifying insects
40. Bridges Math
41. Side by side with project, or interview, and an outline of what is being talked about
42. PIP, a finished project to look at as a model while going through directions
43. Demonstration with doc camera doing project, no more big semicircle watching the teacher
44. Visor for predicting outcomes while looking at passages of text or picture books
45. Video streaming (United Streaming and online videos), online dissections, microscopes
46. Freezing images so kids aren't bumping and moving the visual
47. Sequence of pictures, time lapse, to demonstrate progression.
48. Adding visuals to note outlines.
49. Paperless handouts.
50. Showing hands-on tasks.
51. Compare and Contrast.
52. Step by step instructions.
53. Recording speeches.
54. Group editing.
55. Displaying fragile items or print photographs.
56. Freeze screen if papers keep falling off.
57. Record student speeches or presentations.
58. Choral reading.
59. Playing DVD's.

60. Science slides.
61. Cloze activities.
62. Math regrouping activities with manipulatives.
63. Labeling activities - project on a white board and label images.
64. Prediction activities.
65. Power writing activities - adding to category.
66. Display maps, charts, graphs, images from textbooks.
67. Sharing a 3D process.
68. Visualization of verbage.
69. Instant feedback on student work.
70. Use split screen for before/after.
71. Dissecting flowers.
72. Using visor for critical reading and following directions.
73. Clamation slide shows.
74. Using box to single out paragraphs or individual words.
75. Handwriting technique.
76. Descriptive writing activities using image as writing prompt.
77. Puppet shows.
78. Box vocabulary words in contexts.
79. Travel interactively using Google Earth, Oregon Trail
80. Picture books with read alouds
81. Projecting of actual objects, like an animal heart
82. Maps, directions, examples
83. Visual keywords for reading, keypoints, outlining
84. Side by side, student work and live action editing
85. United Streaming, zooming in on the video itself
86. Math manipulatives
87. Rubric next to writing using split screen, and scoring the example
88. Read alouds
89. Sharing student solved problems and probing why's from student centered approach
90. Sharing web resources from other countries

91. Randomly selected homework being displayed
92. How to use calculators, rulers, and other tools
93. Timer with doc camera doing 5 minute activities
94. Powerpoint Jeopardy
95. Student taught lessons
96. Creating letters
97. Math Games demonstrations
98. Use Picture in Picture for ESL or ELL Students. Show image in small picture and have them write the correct name under the camera.
99. Side by side comparison showing improvement in student's work – Split Screen
100. Freeze screen to get websites up without pop-up interference



101 Ways Kennewick Teachers Use Document Cameras

1. The most important use is to demonstrate new material.
2. Show students how to do assigned work. Things are more easily explained when they can see the problems worked out in front of them.
3. Demonstrating 3 dimensional items. Less time spent passing an item around to view.
4. Immediate feedback by displaying student work.
5. Enlarging text for students with vision impairments.
6. Showing and scoring student or sample work.
7. Great to look at all the objects with Food Chemistry, MicroWorlds, Ecosystems. Almost like having a projection microscope!
8. Increased effectiveness in communicating to a large group information from a commonly held document. Example: a page from a book can be viewed by entire group to ensure that all students are on the correct page in the correct place.
9. Model what is expected in the steps included in a math concept.
10. Allows up-close and detailed observations of objects, mechanics of movement, manipulatives, etc. by the entire class.
11. I had a scientist lead 42 students in fish dissection. He was able to clearly demonstrate what the students should do, and point out the organs students needed to locate in their own fish. This would not have been possible with an overhead projector.

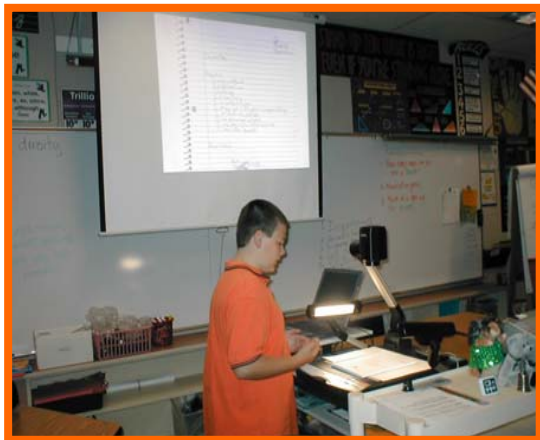


12. Enlarge all math workbook pages, and worksheets. It is invaluable when reading directions, teaching math games and sharing student work.

13. I will save pictures of a student's work that is not created in electronic form and add it to the student's portfolio. In this way, I save time in scanning!
14. Use in staff meetings to explain forms.
15. I do the grades and the daily points on the wall projected from the document camera - everyday to show missing assignments, absences.
16. I use it to display lessons, literature books, group activities, group lessons, speeches, demonstrations, hands on teaching etc.
17. Displaying entry tasks.
18. I do daily writing instruction, math lessons, and science activities.
19. Showing student work. They love to show off their work.
20. In Kindergarten, storybooks are projected on an entire wall. Students love reading words they know.
21. Extemporaneous demonstrations.
22. We have used the document camera to zoom in on parts of a thermometer, and ruler, showing the smallest units and degrees.
23. Demonstrate activities so all the children can see.
24. Reading picture books to the class has been so much better when the students can see/discuss illustrations.
25. Looking over drawings and examples in the book, not having to recreate complicated problems.
26. Decreases prep time (don't have to make overheads, etc.) Has quality imagery.
27. On all the lessons, it focuses the students on what I'm pointing out because they can all see it well, whether it's words, letter combinations, coins and their details, or items from our science liquids and solids kit.
28. Music books, sheet music and other teaching materials are used on the document camera. This is a great tool to help teach music reading skills and literacy too.
29. Math tools (rulers, compasses, calculators) show well on the document camera and the fact that it shows color makes color-coding and maps much more significant.
30. Recently we have been able to zoom in the document camera to show the ingredients on packs of gum we were comparing, as the students did a scientific investigation on the mass of gum after it had been chewed.
31. One of the most important things is for phonics instruction. I use the draw feature to focus on specific things.

32. As math students are working on problems I have them share their work with the class. This immediate feedback enables other students to understand how one student solved a problem and allows a class to review a student's work for accuracy and completeness. This really encourages writing detailed solutions to math problems.
33. Showing while we are doing....it's much better than trying to hold something up for them to see.
34. Display pictures of historical events that we are discussing. I also use it for political cartoons in Current World Problems discussions.
35. Critique student work for Six-Trait Writing.
36. I have taken still shots with the document camera of isopods, crickets, cloud fish eating snail eggs on the walls of a student-built eco-column, and other live creatures.
37. We've looked closely at fish scales, pennies, salmon eggs (and have seen the embryos moving inside!) since the document camera has a nice "zoom" feature.
38. Interactive lessons with students.
39. Students bring objects for "sharing" and place them on the document camera, zooming in where needed.
40. Kindergarten children learn the direction of reading, sight words, and many other important things.
41. Have students use it as they teach the class.
42. We share the student's published books daily. The children's illustrations improve greatly when they know their peers are going to look at their work.
43. Tremendous asset to enhance group discussion and help challenged learners "keep up with the pack."
44. It enables me to show real assignments and objects so that the assignments and lessons are extremely clear.
45. Ease of displaying: an object, a written paper, a handout, a text..... No more burning transparencies and erasing the writing on them in order to use them again.
46. Placing newspaper articles, magazine topics, student work on the document camera to share with the whole class.
47. I use the document camera to display samples of maps, workbook pages, art projects, etc., so that the kids can follow along. In a class where English is not spoken as the native language this reduces the confusion for the children. They are able to successfully attempt the assignment because the document camera provides an effective filter to the barriers presented by giving oral directions.
48. To display graphs and charts or visual performances of student work.
49. To work with "at risk" students who require a significant amount of direct instruction.
50. Show pictures in color. I used it extensively for my housing project.
51. Provide full class immediate feedback about answers to questions.
52. To show 3-D objects: pattern blocks in math from all sides and science experiments.
53. I have used it to demonstrate how to fold a paper crane.
54. Display a variety of examples, shorten lesson planning time, and display student examples.
55. Show documents immediately and appropriately sized for students to see, read and discuss.
56. Show slides.
57. Displaying relevant pictures from many sources.
58. Display, analyze, and edit student work.
59. The most beneficial thing with the document camera has been the ease of placing examples from the book up on the board or graphs that are needed for solving different problems.
60. Use for School Board presentation to share assessment data.
61. Demonstrate how to do hands-on projects in science (constructing objects).
62. For writing: being able to edit much easier during instruction.
63. Visuals to enhance the lecture.
64. I put problems on the white board using the document camera. I also use it to put coordinate planes on the white board for students to use.
65. Students are able to visually see what is written - no messy overhead markers.
66. Zoom in on units of measurement to enlarge and demo how to use 1/16, 1/8, 1/4 etc.
67. Having the visual of student work put up immediately is a huge impact for students and the teacher.
68. Demonstrate how to properly and easily use the compass to make circles of all sizes (4th grade Everyday Math).
69. I use the document camera so all students can see examples, pictures in books, zoomed in pictures of objects, etc. from anywhere in the classroom. Visual learners really benefit from the document camera!
70. Gives all students a bird's eye view.
71. Math problem solving. I freeze the pane and can take the book or materials with me as I walk around the room.

72. Go over tests with students to show correct answers.
73. The document camera enables me to bring a lesson to life with the fact that all students are able to see what is being explained or modeled. Before I would have students gather around me in tiers so students could see the demonstration of math, reading, or science.
74. The most important daily use is for instruction and letting students come to the document camera and "be the teacher."
75. Being able to show student solutions and discoveries to the rest of the class or allow students to show how they got their answers.
76. I use it almost every day for math. It really lends itself to our math lessons because we use so many different types of "math manipulatives."
77. Modeling note-taking.
78. I can easily show how to do a lesson. It also shows what I need them to do and how. I use it when ever they need direction in a subject. It makes it easy for them to follow along during the lesson.
79. It is important to me to be able to display pictures and maps from texts. This camera gives me the ability to show these maps and pictures in color and I can zoom in to show specific areas of interest. I use this everyday in some form to give my students a visual description.
80. Walking students through the steps of an assignment.
81. Put text books on the screen so I can read them while moving around the room.
82. Use as a microscope.
83. I am able to demonstrate how to fill out forms that are specific to my program; this would be very difficult without this equipment.
84. Just being able to display and discuss student work is very powerful.
85. I have shown students different graphs which they were able to read and compare, zooming in on fine print such as the "source" of the graph data, using the document camera.



86. Show small pictures for all to see.
87. I put reading and writing samples on the screen for discussion. It allows me to use the classroom textbook and student work on short notice.
88. Display books for reading, when class sets are not available.
89. The whole class can do an assignment together when I may not have had time to make individual copies.
90. Displaying student work as they relate to WASL rubrics and individual performance.
91. Showing the illustrations when I read books out loud.
92. Display, analyze and interpret student work with the whole class IMMEDIATELY!
93. Displaying emerging work from students as exemplars raises the standard for production for that group.
94. Use as a reward for students. They are excited to write for the class and participate more enthusiastically when I allow them to take part in the instruction (first grade).
95. Reviewing pages out of the book or previewing questionnaires for videos.
96. Instead of having to redraw Geometry sketches I project them onto the white board and then work out the problem. Some of our Geometry sketches can take a lot of time to draw so this is a real time saver. I also put my notes up every day for the students to follow and copy.
97. I can use examples of student work on the spot instead of having to make a transparency. It eliminates the time and expense of making overhead transparencies.
98. As a Library teacher, sharing a story with the students so that they can see more details in the artwork.
99. Show students how to work a math problem, share 3 x 5 cards of WASL examples, and the use of colors when explaining various games or manipulatives.
100. As a science teacher it allows me to show lab set ups, make electronic boards and components more visible.
101. It's probably the best way to teach how to use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words. The book goes on the camera and the teacher and student can together look at the words around the subject word to determine meaning. The teacher can wander the room to check that every student is learning context skills.



Classroom Uses for a Document Camera

The Visual Learner in the Elementary School Classroom

New ideas added September 20, 2007!

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[Next Article>>](#)

A document camera, for those unfamiliar with this technology, is basically a small camera mounted on a stand which is hooked up to an LCD projector. Then, a presenter is able to place objects or documents under the camera and project its image onto a screen for the audience to see. It functions somewhat like a overhead projector on steroids. However, a document camera offers enormous advantages over an overhead projector. The cost of a document camera is about \$700 and up. LCD projectors cost about the same, bringing the total cost to about \$1500 or more per teacher/setup.

That's a lot of money. However, because the impact on students is so amazing, I believe there are very few better investments. Read on to learn several powerful ways my colleagues and I are currently using document cameras. *Many of the ideas you will read below come from the creative teachers at Railroad Canyon Elementary School in Lake Elsinore, California.*

Writing

(1) Essay Writing Students write for homework. The following day, the teacher randomly selects 3 students' papers. These 3 papers are placed under the document camera one at a time for grading. The teacher does a "think-aloud" grading of each paper, and, when the students are ready, calls on them for input. The assignments are given a letter grade on the spot. These three students receive a grade and all others receive credit/no credit. If a student is called upon to have her paper graded when she is absent, another student may volunteer to have his paper graded. If a student is called upon for grading and he does not have the assignment, he receives an F on that assignment. This procedure sends a clear message to the students, "Your writing may be published at any time, so you better do your best work just in case. The quality of work increases greatly, and the students benefit so much more from the teacher's hard work grading papers. The teacher is able to do impromptu mini-lessons based on student weaknesses rather than some arbitrary selection method. Also, this cuts down tremendously on teacher workload. The teacher no longer must edit and grade every student's homework. The quality of work increases in spite of the fact that each paper may simply be "stamped" as complete.

(2) Dictionary Skills Teachers and students can easily model dictionary usage, layout, etc. by placing an actual dictionary under the camera.

(3) Modeling Writing Good writing teachers model writing for the students on a regular basis. A document camera makes that modeling very genuine because no longer is the teacher writing on a transparency or a giant piece of paper. She is

writing on a paper just like the students will be writing on! She is then able to model correct paper organization, handwriting, etc.

(4) Off-Task Student Have a student who struggles focusing on his/her work do the assignment under the document camera. With a writing assignment, there are no "right" answers, so it doesn't really matter if the other students can see. Using this method, the teacher is able to check progress on this student from anywhere in the room with a quick glance.

(5) Whiteboard Lines Project a blank piece of lined paper onto your white board. Now you and your students can write directly on the whiteboard and keep the writing straight and neat.

Math

(6) Manipulatives can be placed under the camera for all to see clearly. Consider how easily you can teach using a ruler and protractor as well as base 10 blocks, clock, etc.

Reading

(7) Shared Reading Every book is a big book when you have a document camera! I use the document camera daily for shared reading with 4th and 5th graders. This means that my students can all see the text that I'm reading aloud. They are expected to read along mentally. Every couple of sentences, I drop a word as I'm reading and expect the students to all chorally fill in that word. The students and I are able to intelligently discuss text features, comprehension strategies, spelling rules, and new vocabulary when all students are able to see the text. Every page or so, I stop reading aloud and tell the students to read a certain section mentally. I then hold students accountable for their reading through journal responses, pair share, and whole class discussion. These methods also improve reading fluency as students are encouraged to decode more rapidly than they normally do in order to keep up with the teacher's reading pace. Another bonus is that all students can quickly and easily see the pictures during a read aloud.

Classroom Management

(8) Worksheets, Forms, Text Book Rather than wasting precious class time running around making sure all the students know where you are in the book, on the worksheet, etc. you can simply point if you use a document camera. Having the students fill in forms is now a snap as well.

(9) Giant Timer Use the document camera to project a countdown timer. Sure you can buy an overhead timer for about \$40. But when you have a document camera, the old kitchen timer works just fine. Use it to keep the kids focused on the task, knowing that the clock is ticking, and they will soon be out of time for that assignment.

Ethics

(10) Forgery When, and if, you ever catch a student forging his/her parent's

signature, place the forged signature under the document camera. Poll the class as to whether or not the signature looks genuine. This will make a clear impression that the teacher is not picking on the guilty student...after all, the whole class agrees that this signature has been forged. Also, it sends a powerful message to the other students, "Don't even think about trying this yourself!"

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Geography

(11) Maps You will no longer need the pull down maps for geography and history discussions. Simply slap a book map under your document camera and away you go!

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Science

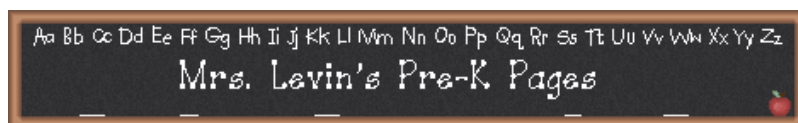
(12) Science Demos When the teacher does a science experiment, point the document camera at the materials for all to see. For example, let's say your experiment measures liquid in a measuring cup. Tilt the camera so that it points at the side of the cup. Now all of your students can easily read the measurement and more clearly understand how to determine an accurate measurement.

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Drama

(13) Drama Stage Set Students can draw the background scenery for a play or skit they will perform in class. Move your projector at a 45 degree angle to the white board. Project the drawing onto the white board, angling it behind the actors. The image will naturally distort, but the overall effectiveness is well worth it.

[Next Article>>](#)



Using document cameras in the early childhood classroom



Have you got the "new technology blues"? Is your ELMO gathering dust in the corner? The ideas below will give you new and exciting ideas for using your ELMO. Using an ELMO in the classroom will revolutionize the way you teach and the way your students learn. Using the ELMO in your classroom daily will take both you and your students to a whole new level of teaching and learning you never thought possible.

Get rid of your old dinosaur overhead and kick it up two notches with an ELMO!



Word Walls:



Create mini thematic word walls in Word using clip art, print and lay under the document camera during writers workshop or journal time so the students can easily see the words if needed. Free printable word walls are available on all of my theme pages (see resources).



Poems & Charts:



Letter Identification/letter sounds: Make Dr. Jean's Letter Baby w/paper plate and put under the document camera. Play the song "I've Got the Whole Alphabet in My Mouth" while spinning the wheel with the song.



Letter Identification/letter sounds: Put an ABC chart under the document camera to use with Dr. Jean's song "Who Let the Letters Out?" Or you can use the chart when you are doing interactive writing and the student needs to find a particular letter. This way the whole class can see and help in the selection.



Concepts of Print: Type out the words to the Frog Street color songs or any poem or song in Word, then put under the ELMO and have students follow along on the big screen with a big pointer as you say the poem or sing. You can add clip art to make it look "pretty" and to give contextual clues to the students



Morning Message:



Use the document camera to project your morning message on the big screen. Students can use wikki stix, pointers, highlighters etc to find punctuation, words, spaces, count words etc.



ABC Manipulatives:



Use the ABC manipulatives from the Lakeshore ABC tubs. Place the little manipulatives under the document camera and have the students name each object and listen to the initial sound. This way all students can clearly see the tiny objects. Put one object that does not belong under the camera and see if they can figure out which one doesn't belong. Lakeshore also has word family tubs that you can do the same thing with





Question of the day:

Project your question of the day on the screen. Have it up and running when the students walk in so they can do it first thing in the morning before class begins. Students can respond by placing their name card or clothespin in a can under the big screen. I use coffee cans with a happy face on the "yes" can and a sad face on the "no" can.



Class Rules:

Print your classroom rules in Word using clip art (see resources for free printable rules) Project your rules on the screen using the document camera every time you are getting ready to use the cart or for reminders throughout the day. Have your class helper (leader, star student etc) come to the screen and point to each rule for the class. This is a very effective method and has been a lifesaver in my classroom this year. Who can ignore the rules if they are projected on a HUGE screen?



Show & Tell:

If you do show and tell make a new rule that all items need to fit under the document camera, and then let students show their items on the big screen. Everybody's sure to pay attention when they can all see everything, no more "I can't see!"



Making Words:

Using magnetic letters has never been more fun than it is under the document camera! Use your letters to spell words; place some letters (you have secretly already pre-selected which letters) under the camera and let the kids come up and try to spell a sight word from their list.



Environmental Print:

Place a piece of environmental print under the document camera (see link to Hubbard's Cupboard in resources) and ask the students to help you find where to place it on the word wall. You can also place it in an envelope and slowly pull it out revealing only a little at a time and see if they can guess what it is.



Rainbow Writing:

Place a sheet of white paper under the document camera and write a large letter on it using a black marker. As you write the letter talk the children through it; "Where should I start writing my letter? At the top or bottom of the paper? O.K., I'm starting at the top and now I'm going straight down and sliding to the right. What letter is it?" Next, have one student at a time come up and trace the letter with crayons using correct letter formation, talk each student through the letter just like you did before. Each student chooses a different color to give it a "rainbow effect". Post these around the room for educational decorations.



What's Missing?

This is a very fun memory game. Place several objects under the document camera (you can use the Lakeshore ABC manipulatives mentioned earlier) and then use the Freeze feature on your document camera and take one item away. Now unfreeze the camera and have the students guess which object is missing- my kids LOVE this game and they have become pros. This activity helps students learn to pay attention and notice details, which is a valuable skill when noticing letters, shapes of letters, and their similarities and differences





Demonstrations/Following Directions:

If you do any type of art projects (TLC art etc) you will love this next idea! Demonstrating how to do a project is always a hassle, the ones in the back can't see the details, they don't pay attention etc. Now, just demo your lessons using the document camera and you will be absolutely amazed how much better your students will become at following directions- guaranteed!!! I've taught cutting skills, gluing skills, how to roll the glue stick up and down, how to squeeze little dots of liquid glue etc with the document camera and my kids are all pros now!



Math Manipulatives:

You can place unifix cubes, bear counters, or any manipulative under your document camera to show your students how to sort, demonstrate one-to-one correspondence, more/less, positional words, longer than/bigger than/taller than etc, the possibilities are endless!



Science:

Place real life objects like leaves, worms, cactus under the document camera to prompt scientific inquiry. We showed the students how to plant their seeds using the document camera. We put the dirt in the cup, poked a hole in the dirt, put the seed in the hole, covered the hole, and watered it. Then the students planted their seeds independently. We checked the progress of our seeds each day under the document camera so the whole class could see.



We are currently have caterpillars in the classroom for our science unit. First, we showed our real caterpillars under the document camera so everybody could see them clearly. We discussed their different features and answered all questions the students had. Every time we placed the caterpillars under the camera they started moving around a lot, maybe because of the heat from the bulb, the kids were fascinated. Then, I showed a clip of the life cycle of a butterfly using United Streaming to the class to establish prior knowledge; the clip showed a time lapse of a caterpillar morphing into a butterfly- the kids were spellbound!



Centers:

Use your document camera as a center in place of an overhead, no more messing with transparencies or vis-à-vis markers. Your overhead has just been reduced to the status of "dinosaur".



Picture Schedule:

Show your students the daily schedule using the document camera. See the resources section for a free printable schedule from Pre-K Pages. Place under the doc camera and project on the screen when they arrive in the morning. The sequence could have things like "1) put away your backpack, 2) put your folder in the basket, 3) get your journal..." etc



Texts:

Small books that you couldn't otherwise use in large group are great for showing with the document camera (little readers etc). The document camera is has replaced the need for expensive big books.



Name Activities:

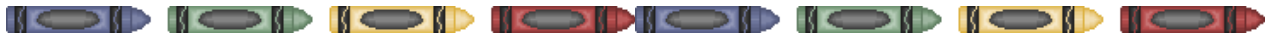
Leader name sentence strips w/mystery envelope use under the document camera, to view this lesson in it's entirety go to the resources section and click on the link to Read Write Think.



Money:

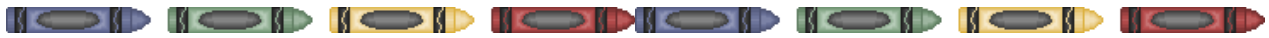
Using the zoom feature on the document camera place coins under the camera to show detail and

prompt discussion. This is especially helpful since many coins are now being re-designed and finding pictures of the new coins is somewhat problematic, especially if one of your objectives is teaching money.



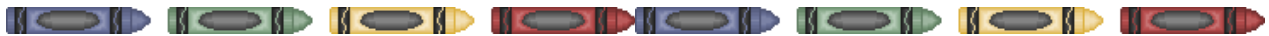
Interactive Writing:

You can do your interactive writing on paper under the document camera, no more losing the attention of the kids sitting in the back, now everybody can see. My kids love to see their friends writing on the big screen. You can use pencil pointers, wikki stix, highlighting tape, highlighters, etc to point out features in the writing.



Concepts of Print:

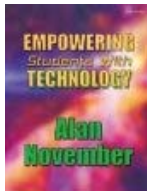






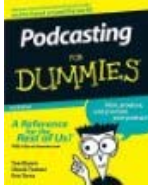

Using real texts or student writing you can search for certain letters, spaces between words, words in a sentence, punctuation, show left to right progression, return sweep etc Use fun pencil pointers, wikki stix, highlighting tape, highlighters, etc



Display Student Work:

Using the document camera we project student writing in journals or surveys the students have taken from Read and Write Around the Room to show examples of good work and to point out features of writing. This is a real motivator for writing, you will be surprised how your students will rise to the occasion.



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Resources

Teacher's Mouse Pad	Heidi Songs
Dr. Jean	Pre-K Pages Classroom Rules
Pre-K Pages Thematic Units w/Printable mini-Word Walls	Read Write Think Name Activity
Hubbard's Cupboard Environmental Print	Pre-K Pages Picture Schedule
Good article about using ELMO (scroll down to page 6)	Lakeshore ABC tubs



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